

## NO ROYAL ROAD.

There is no royal road to God!  
The humblest clod  
Who kneels him down and dares  
Send one or maybe many prayers  
Up to the heart that waits  
At mercy's open gates  
Treads it, ay, as the elect have trod!

There is no royal road to God!  
The chastening rod  
Of conscience has a sting  
Alike for beggar and for king,  
And if each soul obey  
What, then, can lead them far astray,  
Though one be bare of foot and one  
most richly shod?

There is no royal road to God!  
The common sod  
Are we, though on a throne  
Or born low down to grove and moan.  
All our inheritance is this—  
A thoroughfare to eternal bliss  
That, if our eyes but see, is smooth and  
broad.

—Edward Wilbur Mason.

### Railway Extortion and the Mail Service.

From the Outlook.

"The deficit in the Postoffice Department is now \$11,000,000 a year, and is due without question to the enormous increase in second-class matter (newspapers, magazines, etc.), which is carried at the rate of 1 cent a pound, though, according to the Postmaster General, the cost of handling it is nearly 8 cents a pound for transportation alone. Were it not for the enormous loss upon this matter we might have penny postage upon letters, and still no deficit in the Postoffice Department. In order to lessen this cost, Mr. Loud, the chairman of the House Committee on Postoffices, drafted a bill raising the rates on certain publications from 1 cent a pound to 4 cents. Our contributor, Mr. Cowles, urges that Mr. Loud's solution of the difficulty is not the one demanded by the present situation. There is no reason, he says, why the railroads should charge 8 cents a pound for carrying this second-class matter. The express companies, he says, carry the same kind of matter for 500 miles at the rate of a cent a pound, and 500 miles is further than mail is generally carried. If the express companies, who also must patronize the railroads, can carry this matter at a cent a pound, there is no reason why the railroads should charge the government 8 cents a pound. Mr. S. W. Green, a business man in this city, in urging the same point in the New York Times, has recently called attention to the fact that the railroads not only charge the government for hauling mail bags forty times as much as they charge ordinary customers for ordinary freight, but also that they charge the government as much for carrying a mail bag as they do for carrying a passenger on the fastest trains. The matter is certainly one that demands investigation. When the railroad rates for carrying mail were last fixed, in 1878, the amount of second-class matter carried was relatively unimportant, and 8 cents a pound did not seem a high rate for carrying letters for which the government received over 30 cents a pound. Now, however, when the amount of second-class matter carried is greater than that of all other matter combined, it is necessary that the old contracts should be revised, and that the railroads should carry this matter for the government as cheaply as they carry it for the express companies."

### The Efficiency of the Church.

Rev. B. Fay Mills.

A church dependent on questionable methods for its support misrepresents the true religious principle. Some of our churches are supported by the gifts and contributions of men whose money has been gained by the commission of almost every crime tolerated by our modern civilization. The wealthiest Protestant church in the United States draws a large proportion of its revenue from the vilest tenement houses in New York city, and other religious bodies not so conspicuous depend on various devices of questionable morality, and even upon pew rents which discriminate between the rich and the poor for their support. I have no objection to families sitting together in churches, nor to their paying a reasonable sum for the general religious ministry which they receive; but any church in which a man may occupy a good seat because he is rich and must sit in a poor one if he is not, misrepresents Christ and every other great religious teacher and inspirer of the race.

### A Museum of Newspapers.

A museum of journals at Aix-la-Chapelle, Germany, founded in 1886 by M. Oscar Forkenbeck, is said to contain 500,000 newspapers in all languages. The founder devoted his whole fortune for forty years to the acquisition of rare

and curious specimens, and to subscriptions to journals in all parts of the world. He received and read every day a considerable number of the papers in thirty different languages. Having started the museum with 10,000 full collections, he addressed a circular letter to the press of the globe, asking co-operation in his enterprise, and a large number of journals responded favorably.

### An Accident Defined.

The United States Circuit Court of Appeals at St. Louis has judicially determined that a sore toe is an accident where it is not done on purpose. The question arose in an accident insurance case and a recent dispatch says:

The United States Court of Appeals has affirmed the decision of the lower court wherein Mrs. Sarah I. Smith obtained judgment against the Western Commercial Travelers' Association for \$5,000 on the death of her husband, and Judge Sanborn in it gives the judicial conception of the word accident. F. O. Smith died from blood poisoning in 1895 as the result of a sore toe, the skin of which had been abraded by a tight shoe. Mrs. Smith attempted to collect the accident policy, but was resisted by the association. A jury in Judge Adams' court gave her the full amount of the policy and the association appealed. Judge Sanborn held that the death of the defendant had been brought about by an external agent, and that it was accidental. "What is not the result of design or prearrangement," said the Judge, "is accidental. No man intentionally wears the skin off his toes and the death must be considered accidental."

### A Western Kansas Obituary.

From the Kansas City Journal.

Here is another of those breezy western Kansas obituaries, coming this time from the Great Bend Register: "Uncle Billy Coe's spirit went away somewhere last Monday forenoon—to heaven we hope and believe. He has been living at Bill Zutavern's, and his last words were, 'Bill, I believe I am a gonner!'"

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### CO-OPERATIVE READING CLUBS.

#### AMERICAN LITERATURE COURSE.

#### LESSON VII. PART 2.

#### THE CONCORD WRITERS—II.

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE.  
(1804-1864.)

#### SKETCHES OF HIS ROMANCES.

"Fanshawe," his first work, published in 1828 at his own expense and issued anonymously. It met with little success and copies of the first edition are rare.

"Twice Told Tales," in 1837, is the work of a recluse, who makes guesses at life from a knowledge of his own heart, acquired by a habit of introspection, but but who has had little contact with men. —Burns.

"Mosses From an Old Manse," which was two volumes of charming stories, among them being "The Birthmark," with which our readers are no doubt familiar.

"The House of the Seven Gables," in 1851, a story of wrong which, though carrying through several generations, is finally overtaken by retribution. —Royce.

"The Blithedale Romance" being an account, largely romantic, of his experience as a member of Brook Farm.

"The Marble Faun," 1860, a romance with its scenes laid in Italy. It is a poet's essay at guessing the origin and portraying the growth of sin in the human heart.

"Our Old Home," a tale of England, and "The Scarlet Letter," reviewed in Part I.

#### LESSON QUESTIONS.

1. Who were the Concord Writers? a.
2. Why so called? b.
3. In what manner do the works of Hawthorne differ from those of his associates at Brook Farm? c.
4. Who were his associates? d.
5. What is peculiar regarding the habits of Hawthorne? d.
6. In what manner and to what extent did his daily habits produce effect upon his writings? e.
7. Where was his birthplace and in which of his books do we trace the origin of the romance to the stories connected with that town?
8. Which author, Emerson or Hawthorne, is the most popular among American people, and which has done the most good?

#### REFERENCES AND SIDE LIGHTS.

a. Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Fuller and Alcott.

b. The village of Concord has perhaps done more for American literature than the city of New York. Certainly there are few places where associations, both patriotic and poetic, cluster so thickly. —Beers, p. 156.

c. Emerson, the essayist, did not write fiction. Thoreau lived close to nature and related his experience. Margaret Fuller was distinctly a literary personage, furnishing the public with reviews and book notices. Alcott was an aesthetic dreamer. Hawthorne wrote romances pure and simple, dealing with the imaginative faculties, showing that by love and repentance sin is removed.

d and e. The habit of solitude—taking walks when others were asleep. Withdrawing himself from the fellowship of his fellow men as much as possible. He was not long contented in one place or one house. He moved a great number of times. He fought shy of publishers, and it is related of him that one evening a publisher came to see him, hoping to secure a new romance that Hawthorne had written. The publisher tried in vain to secure the manuscript, and in despair went away. Hawthorne, changing his mind, suddenly grabbed up the manuscript and darted down the stairs. He pushed the manuscript into the hands of the publisher and vanished as quickly as he had come.

#### SUMMARY.

Nathaniel Hawthorne, born at Salem, Mass., 1804, and died while on a trip to the White mountains, in May, 1864.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, born in Boston, 1803, and died in 1882.

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862). "Walden" his best work. "A Week on the Concord and Merrimac Rivers."

Margaret Fuller Ossoli. (1810-1850). Wrote essays and literary criticisms. Best work, "Women in the Nineteenth Century."

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